

Earth First!

ACTION UPDATE

JUST DO IT!

NUMBER 7

OCTOBER 1993 20P

M11 CAMPAIGN

Since mid-September the lines have been drawn in north east London; On one side the DoT, and on the other, an alliance of local residents and other anti-road protesters. Besides relocating a bottleneck(!), this project shall demolish over 350 homes and hundreds of trees and shall split communities. What's more, where do 1000+ evictees go in a city where housing demands exceed supply? The DoT's "comroads", NORWEST HOLST (0923 238133) and engineers WS Atkins are being given a run for our money. The "No M11 Link Road Alliance" (Reclaim the Streets, Pagan Link, Twyford Down Alert, ETC, ETC.) has obstructed work almost daily from day 1. Successful tactics have included barricading, reclaiming and rebuilding condemned properties, tree and bulldozer sitting and evicting security from sites. The tarmac tyrants are facing hugely inflated security and work costs (sounds familiar?)

A National Day of Action on the 18th October at Wanstead demonstrated massive discontent. - Details of this in the next issue of Action Update. For more details: PO Box 956 Leytonstone Delivery Office 6 Joseph Ray Road E11 1AA 081 888 5824/558 2638



WAKE UP,
THE WORLD IS DYING.

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS LABELLED FASCISTS!

It was a busy few days for Manchester Earth First! and our visitors from all over the country. (20th-23rd SEPT) Partnerships For Change was Rio 2, a 'feet on the ground' conference to show the physical achievements after the Earth Summit. Delegates from around the world were wined, dined, entertained, and fed bullshit by the British Government. It must be said there were numerous worthwhile projects being presented, and many people concerned for real change.

However there were some who definitely should not have been there. John Gummer, Natwest Bank, Mercedes and Shell were among those portraying themselves as greener than green! A women's action early on Monday 18th stopped Gummer in his tracks. Having driven up to Manchester, he took a ceremonial tram ride to the conference, but banners held across the track forced him to get out and walk.

Minutes later during the opening speech he was heckled about Twyford and replied with "fascist". Mr Gummer was once again interrupted in a press conference resulting in two protesters being removed by police. **CONT. PAGE 2.**

CRISP-O CRACKS CRIME

An outbreak of ethical shoplifting seems poised to sweep the country. Under British Justice theft is committed only when a persons property is taken with the intention of permanently depriving them of it. This has interesting implications - if people make careful and specific plans to show no such permanent intention exists! Sick as endangered parrots at the continued massacre of the rain forests, and the death and destruction that the logging industry is causing, people have finally started upholding Brazilian law. Volunteers of CRISP-O (Citizens Recovery of Indigenous Peoples Stolen Property), will be taking mahogany products to the police pending its return to the country of origin - and possibly the prosecution of the real thieves? Can we stand by and let Western companies and governments make huge profits out of such destruction?

Contact CRISP-O :
42-46 Bethel St, Norwich.
0603 631007 for a
briefing pack.

CRISP-O Actions:
Norwich 23rd October
Manchester 7th Nov
Leeds 10th Nov
Birmingham 30th Nov

FASCISTS! (CONT.)

Around the same time it was reported that a video of Mr Major welcoming people, which was to be shown, went missing.

To highlight Natwest's complete hypocrisy, at noon EFers dressed in suits and clutching FTs entered their international office. Demands were made and ignored. Food and blankets were smuggled in and a dozen stayed the night watched by staff.

Tuesday lunch time the group left minutes before an injunction arrived. Excellent press and not a single arrest in three days

A11 WYMONDHAM BYPASS

Activists were evicted from the Willows in Wymondham, Norfolk on 1st October after a month long occupation. As a direct result of the occupation construction has been delayed until the beginning of January. The eviction of the 3 squatters was peaceful. It took police nearly 2 hours to smash through barricades and 2 of the protesters had to be removed from the roof by crane. The house and orchard were demolished the same day. A mobile phone proved invaluable during the occupation. For the moment NVDA is taking place on a fairly limited basis; when construction begins this will change. Write to the constructors at May Gurney, Head Office, Trowse, Norwich, Norfolk.

EF! GATHERING

It happened, and we are still here. Minutes available from local **gsp**.

GREEN PARTY SEE THE LIGHT

The Green Party unanimously passed a motion at its national conference this September, giving its full support to NVDA against the government's road building programme. "The Green Party affirms its intention to broaden the definition of politics from the purely electoral to include the use and extension of all democratic opportunities which exist." Does this mean that now we'll see Sarah Parkin on TV being beaten up by Group 4?

CRADLEWELL UPDATE

On 31st August 15 people were arrested at the site of the proposed Cradlewell bypass in Newcastle. They were all charged with Section 241 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1992..

The next Day of Action is planned for October 18th, as many people as possible are required to show the council that they can't destroy the parks of our children.

The tree sitting campaign has ended but our struggle against the DoT's earth-wrecking machine will continue until the last bit of Tarmac has been laid. Many thanks to all those who visited Newcastle in the summer. Why don't you return to see how cold our winters are. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE FLOWERPOT TRIBE (091)261615

BIRMINGHAM EF!

The occupation of the Midland Express Ltd (MEL) offices has been put on hold as local FoE believe they are making progress in halting the project. So in the meantime B'ham EF! have ditched coffee mornings for a "cycle morning" round and round a central roundabout in co-ordination with local pedal-pushers. This is a result of their rush to get to the Tesco supermarket which is apparently offering free food-filled replacements to anyone bringing in recyclable Tesco containers, according to some leaflets anyway!! If MEL announce they are going to public enquiry, non FoE tactics may be useful!!! for more information contact B'ham EF

CLEAR CUTTING OF CANADIAN NATURE PARKS

The government of Manitoba Province has passed a law declaring that the 'purpose' of a nature park includes clear felling and mining. Protest in support of 'Defenders of the Nopiming' at Canada House, London on Wed 24th November 11am Contact Kate on 0865 201-706

30th October London Motor Show Action,

Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. A demonstration of the kind of havoc that cars are wreaking on our planet! Contact: Reclaim the Streets Action Network, PO Box 1593 London SN9 8LT 071 737-0100

QUARRIES

LAING have a £51m contract to build a nine hundred metre tunnel through PEN-Y-C mountain and where do TARMAC and LAING get all the stone etc. for aggregate from?...yes the quarries (there are at least four along the A55 alone), many owned by ARC and McALPINE. ARC own Lonatley quarry, a small town-sized hole in Somerset. This is the source of the aggregate used at Twyford. ARC are using outdated 1948 planning permission to increase the size of their quarries at Whatley, Penmaenmaur and Carmel woods (a SSSI full of rare species and the resting place of thirteen giant skeletons!). Oh, and guess what...TARMAC and ARC have the same directors! McALPINE own a huge quarry in Bethesda. FoE's proposed alternative was turned down because it would have gone through the slag heaps of the quarry, obviously a more important site! Is it just another coincidence that the bypass means easier access for the quarry? TARMAC ARC and LAING are turning mountains, meadows and trees into roads and concrete. ACTION IN NORTH WALES SAT 23rd OCT Contact: 0492 592528

BENEFIT GIG 4th NOV, THE VENUE, LONDON

Numerous bands including Poisoned Electric Head and Co-Creators in aid of EF! and anti-road groups Box Office: 081694 2078



WYNDHAM HILL

Sainsbury's are building another much needed supermarket on Wyndham Hill, Yeovil in Somerset. Surprisingly enough, local people were led to believe it was being built on the old station carpark. In fact the 50,750 sq ft monstrosity is to be built on a beautiful greenfield site at the foot of Wyndham Hill. The hill will be carved up to build the road, many rare species and beautiful countryside will be trashed. The river will become polluted and Wyndham Hill will be reduced to an absurd traffic island. The planning committee's decision seems to be a foregone conclusion. Surveying will start in December.

Wyndham Action Group (WAG) feel that if surveying cannot be completed then a store and road won't be built. ACTIVISTS WANTED For more info write to: WAG P.O. Box 1670 Yeovil Somerset BA 20 1FY

POLLUTION COVER-UP

Confirming that the DoT are liars. The independent on Sunday (10 Oct) and FoE "revealed" that car pollution is higher than govt. figures. Govt. monitoring stations, sited away from major roads, give figures as low as half those shown by FoE. FoE say that EC pollution limits are regularly exceeded and a result of this is that Britain is gripped by an asthma epidemic. 1 in 7 children now get asthma and it is the third highest cause of hospitalisation.

BRITISH AEROSPACE TO PLOUGHSHARES

Chris Cole, on trial for causing £0.5m damage to fighter planes has just received a hung jury. This means that at least 3 people must have considered him to be innocent. His defence was that he was using reasonable force to prevent a crime. He goes for retrial on 19th October

SKYE BRIDGE COURT CASE

On October 1st five protesters were in court in Inverness over the Skye Bridge demo. Four pleaded not guilty, one plea was accepted because he was acting as a journalist. Two were found guilty and given a deferred sentence. The fifth protester, the only women, was found not guilty due to insufficient evidence. Although not complaining, it seems she thinks that this was a face saving gesture to compensate for the other's overly heavy sentences.

15th-16th January 1994 NVDA Training Weekend

at Leeds University. Enlightening speakers and workshops to help you organise empowering non-violent direct actions. Contact Leeds EF1

INTERNATIONAL EARTHNIGHT 31st OCT- 5th NOV CANT KILL THE SPIRIT!!!

Rumour has it that on Halloween night, fairies and elves go out and play mischievous games. Many people lock their doors and leave a pumpkin glowing to help them on their way. This is the night, fairies and ELFlings are empowered to reverse their role of little people being scared of big uncaring profit barons. Use these nights wisely to become inspired, empowered, to grow in strength and to waken those rising Earth Spirits. Go out and have fun, but remember be back before it gets light or you may turn into a pumpkin!!!

16th-17th December Sarawak Solidarity Action

Demonstrate outside the Malaysian High Commission, in support of the 8 people arrested in London for forming a human and timber blockade in solidarity with the on-going struggle for land rights in Sarawak. Trials set for 16-17th December. Contact: 071 403-2876

4th December National No Shop Day.

Take to the streets and use the day to encourage others to think about the damaging effects of consumerism at its pre-Christmas height. Action pack from 'Enough' c/o One World Centre, 13 Paton Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 2BA 061 881-7460 S.A.E. please

ETHICAL SHOPLIFTING IN STROUD

2 EFers are on bail in Stroud following the new group's ethical shoplift. The action at Great Mills was to protest against the sale of illegally logged Brazilian mahogany. Police are trying to think of a suitable charge for the shoplifters; a third protester who was D-locked to a mahogany banister was not charged. The Great Mills manager claimed to the press that they are phasing out mahogany. This is utter bullshit and they haven't got a hardwood leg to stand on.

EF! Contacts

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